

# Obama Oil Spill Facts

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**FACT: March 19, 2008** –BP wins lease for drilling during Bush Administration.

**FACT: January 20, 2009** – Ken Salazar nominated and confirmed to be Secretary of the Interior.

**FACT: April 30, 2009** – Thomas Strickland confirmed to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

**FACT: March 10, 2009** – BP submits an Exploration Plan to the Obama Administration.

**FACT:** **April 6, 2009** – Obama Administration approves a carte blanche Exploration Plan without requiring an Environmental Impact Statement, or a site specific safety plan. President Obama later states, “It seems as if permits were too often issued based on little more than assurances of safety from the oil companies.”

**FACT: February 2010** – Obama Administration allows foreign-inspected ship, DEEPWATER HORIZON, to begin drilling.

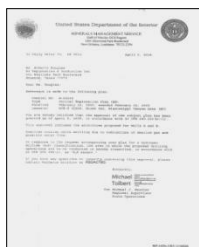
**FACT:** **February 2, 2010** – Obama Budget proposes dramatic cuts to Coast Guard funding. President recommends slashing more than 1,100 military positions and decommissioning cutters; eliminating 5 Maritime Safety and Security Teams; and reducing Coast Guard helicopters.

Obama Budget also proposes \$2 million cut to Mineral Management Service environmental reviews.

**FACT:** February 17, 2010, March 3, 2010, April 1, 2010– MMS officials perform monthly inspection of the drilling rig, spending less than 2 hours on board before departing.

**FACT: March 31, 2010** – Obama Administration proposes expansion of offshore energy activities.

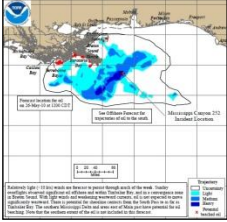
**FACT: April 20, 2010** – BP holds celebration on DEEPWATER HORIZON citing 7 years without a major accident. DEEPWATER HORIZON explodes, and burns. Eleven U.S. workers die. Coast Guard begins search and rescue.



**FACT: April 21, 2010** – Coast Guard named Federal On-Scene Coordinator. Obama Administration does not establish Unified Command Center.

**FACT: April 22, 2010** – DEEPWATER HORIZON sinks. Riser pipe breaks. Catastrophic oil leak begins. BP fails to detect leak. Search for 11 missing workers.

**FACT: April 23, 2010** – DEEPWATER HORIZON found sunken. Oil sheen reported. Administration's summary of events finds, "**No Apparent Leak**". Unified Command created. Search for missing workers is suspended.



**FACT: April 24, 2010** – BP finds leak. Seeks permission to drill relief wells. Estimated time to drill – 90 days.

**FACT: April 25, 2010** – Overflights indicated the oil spill size was approximately 48 miles wide by 39 miles long.



**FACT: April 26, 2010** – Tom Strickland, DOI Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary for Wildlife and Parks, leaves for Grand Canyon rafting trip.

**FACT: April 28, 2010** – First controlled burn conducted. Additional leak discovered.



**FACT: April 29, 2010** – Spill of National Significance (SONS) declared. The President orders Secretary Salazar to report on additional safety measures for offshore operations in 30 days. National Park Service flies Tom Strickland out of Grand Canyon by helicopter to return to work.

**FACT: April 30, 2010** – Obama Administration establishes the Safety Oversight Board to recommend interim safety measures. Daily leak estimated reaches 210,000 gallons.

**FACT: May 6, 2010** – Oil makes first landfall in Louisiana.

**FACT: May 11, 2010** – Governor Jindal requests Obama Administration to construct offshore berms to protect Louisiana coast.

**FACT: May 20, 2010** – EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson directs BP to identify within 24 hours an alternative dispersant.

**FACT: May 22, 2010** – BP responds that it will continue to use the original dispersant due to toxicity, availability, and efficacy concerns.

**FACT: May 26, 2010** – Oil present along eighty-five miles of Louisiana coastline.